



U.S. Department of Justice

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS

*Acting United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 27, 2009

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press_Releases/index.html

Former D.C. Protective Services Officer Found Guilty of Armed Rape

WASHINGTON - Earlier today, a Superior Court jury found a 38-year-old District of Columbia man, James Guerra, guilty of First Degree Sexual Abuse while Armed and related charges, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced. Guerra, who was employed as a D.C. Protective Services Police Officer at the time of this offense, is scheduled to be sentenced on October 9, 2009, before the Honorable Michael Rankin. At sentencing, the defendant faces up to 30 years in prison.

According to evidence presented at trial, Guerra and the victim, who was an au pair from Germany, met in September 2007. After becoming good friends, the defendant grew obsessed with the victim, who continually rejected his advances. On September 26, 2008, the defendant lured the victim to his apartment in Northwest Washington, D.C., under false pretenses. When the victim learned that Guerra had lied to get her to his apartment, she immediately tried to leave. In response, the defendant trapped the victim in the apartment, preventing her departure. The defendant then punched and choked the victim, handcuffed her, and tied her to his bed with a belt. While armed with a knife, the defendant then threatened to kill the victim, and raped her.

In announcing the jury's verdict, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended lead Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detective Wandella Fields, who did an exemplary job investigating the case and working with the victim and other witnesses. He also praised the outstanding assistance of MPD Detective Wallace Carmichael, Mobile Crime Officers George Klein, John Holder, Leother Strong, Officer Sarah Pezzat, and Detective Derek Bolding. Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips particularly noted the assistance of U.S. Secret Service Agent Kyo Dolan, who processed the cell phones and provided tremendous litigation support. He also praised the work of Paralegals Gena Johnson and Jason Manuel, Legal Assistant Tiffany Jones, Criminal Investigator John Marsh, Intelligence Analyst Larry Grasso, Law Clerk Charles (Andy) Davis, and Jeanie Latimore-Brown and Dontrell Smith from Litigation Services. Additionally, he commended Victim/Witness Advocates Tracey

Page -2-

Hawkins and Veronica Vaughn for their work with the victim and witnesses, and David Foster who assisted the victim and witnesses in returning to the United States to testify. Finally, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sharon Donovan and Tracey Lankler, who investigated and prosecuted this case.

###

09-186